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# AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES

## THE JAMES GWIN POULTRY COLLECTION IN PERSPECTIVE

Alan Fusonie  
National Agricultural Library

Agricultural writers of ancient Rome, such as Cato, Varro, Columella, and Palladius, devoted portions of their writings to the raising of poultry. Varro and Columella provided information concerning the construction of henhouses similar in content to some of the general guidelines for henhouses in the twentieth century. The gradual refinement of agriculture and the introduction of related business practices led to the development of poultry as a special farm enterprise in the United States. The growing recognition of the importance of this industry was reflected in two articles which appeared in the first *Annual Report* of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the year 1862. Ninety-six years later, J. Richard Blanchard and Harold Ostvold, in their book *Literature of Agricultural Research* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1958) provided the following working definition of poultry husbandry:

The term 'poultry' . . . includes chickens, turkeys, guineas, ducks, geese, pigeons, pheasants, and other domesticated birds that have marketable value. Poultry husbandry includes the selection, breeding, production, housing, management, marketing, processing, and distribution of poultry and poultry products (p. 83)

The National Agricultural Library has accumulated one of the largest holdings of poultry literature in the world, including such subject areas as anatomy, physiology, breeding, canning, congresses, diseases, equipment, farm management, feeding, hatcheries, industry and trade, marketing, meat, nutrition, processing, research, statistics, and other related areas.

Over the years, the Library has sought to compliment its general holdings by the acquisition of special research

collections. NAL accepted in April 1971 the JAMES M. GWIN POULTRY COLLECTION which included over 1,000 volumes comprising the personal working library of Dr. Gwin. What began as a boyhood interest in poultry led eventually to a life-time career in the field of poultry husbandry and the accumulation of an extensive literature collection on the subject. Between 1937 and 1958, Dr. Gwin was a professor of Poultry Husbandry and Director of the Extension Service at the University of Maryland. From 1958 to 1964, he was associated with the Poultry Products Marketing Division of the Ralston Purina Company. Now retired, Dr. Gwin resides in St. Louis, Missouri, and is a member of the Poultry Science Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Travels made by Dr. Gwin at home and abroad provided him with the opportunity to visit numerous second-hand bookstores in search of poultry literature. Not only did he acquire all eight editions of Bonington Mobray's *A Treatise on Domestic Poultry* but also, in 1945, he purchased in Dijon, France, M. De Reaumur's *Art de Faire Eclorre et D'Elever . . . des Oiseaux Domestiques* (The Art of Hatching and Bringing Up Domestic Fowls) in the original French edition of 1749.

Also included in the collection is the abstract version of De Reaumur's work translated into English in 1750. Another rather unique item is the twenty-four page pamphlet entitled *The Aviary; or a New and Entertaining History and Exhibition of Birds, Fowls, . . . in which the Several Feathered Animals . . . Are Historically Characterized . . .* (17-?).

Finally, there are some interesting books on the ancient sport of cock-fighting — the breeding, training,





and pitting of gamecocks. To mention a few: *The Cocker* (1814) by W. Sketchley, the edited work *Cock-Fighting and Game Fowl the Note-Books of Herbert Atkinson* (1938);



*Courage: The Story of Modern Cockfighting* by Tom Pridgon (1938).

In addition to the extensive number of books in many editions, the collection includes complete files of catalogs from manufacturing firms — material useful to researchers interpreting the historical development of the poultry industry. There are also many files covering the early breeders in the industry. It was the breeder who, in addition to making a livelihood from the selling of hatching eggs, breeder stock, and baby chicks, made lasting scientific contributions by increasing the number of breeds. The collection also contains many illustrative posters and signs depicting and documenting the progress of the poultry industry. Trade associations are well represented inclusive of large files on The American Poultry Association, the Poultry Science Association, World's Poultry Science Association, American Poultry Industries, International Baby Chick Association, North-eastern Poultry Producer's Association, and many more.

The Library welcomes the opportunity to receive outstanding special subject collections in agriculture and its related fields. With the addition of the James M. Gwin Collection, the National Agricultural Library has become one of the richest sources of poultry literature in the world.

## USU PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

A. J. Simmonds  
Special Collections Librarian  
and University Archivist

Using the techniques of the Idaho State Historical

Society, the Department of Special Collections and Archives at Utah State University began in October 1974, the processing and cataloging of the Library's photo collection. While the photographs cover a broad range of Western American, Utah, and University history, a special emphasis has been upon photographs demonstrating the development of agriculture in the Intermountain West.

The University has long possessed a substantial collection of photographs from its Agricultural Experiment Station. As Utah's land-grant institution, USU has been largely involved in the science of dry land agriculture and irrigated agriculture in arid regions. Perhaps some 2,000 photographs in the University's files—dating from the 1870's—are directly related to western agriculture and farm and ranch life. An aggressive program of borrowing original prints in private hands and making copies for the USU collection has greatly augmented extant files taken by University photographers.

It is the policy of the Utah State University Library to catalog each photograph as though it were a book: creating perhaps six to nine cards—using standard Library of Congress subject headings for each photograph. Copy negatives are filed for the majority of photographs in the collection. Interested institutions and individuals can obtain inexpensive prints directly from USU.

## INFORMATION CENTERS AND LABORATORIES

### ARS Nutrient Data Bank

Agricultural Research Service, USDA expects the programming and testing for this data bank to be completed this month. Data is being entered and work is progressing on the revision of Agricultural Handbook No. 8: *Composition of Foods*. The new handbook will be issued in loose-leaf form to facilitate updating. It will be arranged by food groups. One or more of three food groups — dairy and egg products, spices and herbs, and baby foods — will be published by the end of the year.

### NATIONAL SEED STORAGE LABORATORY

The National Seed Storage Laboratory, Fort Collins, Colorado, was built in an effort to stop the loss of valuable germ plasm here and abroad. Recently the Laboratory transferred all of its information on about 90,000 different seed samples from cards to computer tapes. Complete and up-to-date information can now be retrieved in a matter of seconds. More thorough multiple-characteristic searches for seeds can be conducted with the information stored at USDA's new computer center at Fort Collins. If a researcher requests alfalfa seed that



is disease resistant, early maturing, and extremely winter hardy, the computer can locate in seconds all the various seed samples.

Along with information on plant characteristics, disease and insect resistance, and location, the computer also stores information on germination history, origin, and donor of each sample. The Laboratory can also use the computer to find those seeds that are due to be retested for germination. Another use is for inventory requests.

The Laboratory frequently receives requests for a listing of all seeds of a certain species. In such cases, the computer provides a detailed printout of only those seeds that are requested.

The computer also keeps track of the quantity of each seed sample. When the inventory starts getting low, the staff is alerted to begin acquiring more seed.

— *Agricultural Research*. Vol. 24, No. 1. July 1975

## NAL SERIAL GAP LIST — NO. 9

The following journal issues are this month's continuation of the list of gaps in NAL's collection. If you can furnish any of these items, please address to:

Selection Section — GAPS  
National Agricultural Library  
10301 Baltimore Blvd.  
Beltsville, MD 20705

1. *Acta horticulturae* (The Hague, Netherlands, International Society for Horticultural Science) 31, 32, 37, 1973; 47-49, 1974.
2. *Food service equipment dealer* (Boston, Mass., Cahners) (Amherst, Mass.) 2:2, 1973.
3. *Journal*. Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council (Amherst, Mass.) 2:2, 1973.
4. *Palaeoecology of Africa and of the surrounding islands and Antarctica* 1, 1965?; 2, 1966?
5. *Timber* (Johannesbrug, South Africa) 8: 1-12, 1971.

## NEWS NOTES

The Agricultural Sciences Information Network (ASIN) Committee met at NAL September 3-4. Attendees included Dr. Frank H. Baker (Chairman) Dean, Division of Agriculture, Oklahoma State University; Dr. Darrell S. Metcalfe, Associate Dean and Director, College of Agriculture, University of Arizona; Dr. C. P. Ellington,

The Associates NAL, Inc. presented two awards at its 4th Annual Meeting, September 26, held at the National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Maryland

### *Professional Achievement Award*

Albert C. Strickland  
Head Librarian  
Hume Library  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Science  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida

### *Distinguished Service Award*

Mrs. Irene P. White  
National Agricultural Library  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Beltsville, Maryland

Director, Agriculture Extension, College of Agriculture, University of Georgia; Dr. Jack Barrett, Head, Department of Forestry, University of Tennessee, and Lucille Smiley, Reference Librarian representing Dr. Burleigh C. Webb, Dean, School of Agriculture, North Carolina A&T University. Wallace C. Olsen, Liaison Officer, NAL reviewed the background on ASIN and key staff spoke on NAL services and programs. Guest speakers discussed specialized services and programs outside of the National Agricultural Library. Dr. Harold Schoolman, Assistant Deputy Director NLM discussed the REGIONAL MEDICAL LIBRARY SYSTEM OF the National Library of Medicine. EMERGENCY PROGRAMS INFORMATION CENTERS were presented by Dr. Gary P. Combs, Staff Officer, Emergency Programs Centers. Mr. Ronald R. DeClark, Chief, Scientific ADP Data Systems Application Division, ARS spoke on CURRENT AWARENESS LITERATURE SERVICE of the Agricultural Research Service. Mr. David M. Liston, Jr., Assistant Director for Operations, ERIC, presented INFORMATION ANALYSIS AND DATA CENTERS.

On the second day VIEWS FROM USERS were presented. Dr. Robert Z. Callahan, Director, Forest Environment Research, U.S. Forest Service discussed FORESTRY NEEDS AND SOLUTIONS. Dr. Elizabeth Davis, Coordinator, Home Economics Research, CSRS spoke on HOME ECONOMICS USERS AND NEEDS. THE RESIDENT INSTRUCTOR'S CONCEPT was presented by Dr. Darrell Metcalfe, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, University of Arizona.







After discussion and further exchange of ideas the ASIN Committee went into executive session.

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A cooperative Education Working Agreement has been established between the New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico and the National Agricultural Library. The Agreement applies to the appointment of cooperative education students to positions leading to administrative, professional, or technical work in the National Agricultural Library. In addition to meeting basic eligibility standards imposed by Civil Service Commission regulations, a student

1. Must be attending New Mexico Highlands on a substantially full-time basis with majors and interests in the subjects which relate to, or interrelate with the types of works performed in the library
2. Must be enrolled in the institution's cooperative education curriculum
3. Must meet citizenship requirements
4. Must be recommended for assignment in the NAL by the appropriate staff member of the educational institution
5. Can not be a son or daughter of a Department of Agriculture employee
6. Must be maintaining at least a 2.4 overall scholastic average on a 4.0 scale of the equivalent, must have grade C or above in all major fields of study, and must have a record as a student that in all respects is predicated of graduation.

Further details are available from Mrs. Katherine Daley, NAL.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

*List of references for the history of black Americans in agriculture, 1619-1974.* A cooperative project by the Agricultural History Branch, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural History Center. Davis, Agricultural History Center, University of California, 1975. Free. Apply to the Agricultural History Center.

*South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station publications: an index 1888-1973; SUPPLEMENT 1974.*

Clemson, S.C., Clemson University. 205p. and 51p. respectively. Free. Apply to Clemson University Library, Science-Technology and Agricultural Division.

## AGRICULTURAL DATEBOOK

Nov. 4-6: Pinchot Inst. of U.S. Forest Service; Pennsylvania State University/National Arboretum, Symposium on *Better Trees for Metropolitan Landscapes*, National Arboretum, Washington, D. C. (Henry D. Gerhold, Forest Resources Laboratory, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. 16802)

Nov. 9-12: *21st Allerton Institute on "Major Classification Systems,"* University of Illinois conference center near Monticello, Ill. Sponsors; University of Illinois/Graduate School Library Science and Forest Press. B. Pryor, Inst. Supervisor, 116 Illini Hall, Champaign 61820

Nov. 10-14: *American Society of Parasitologists*, Golden Anniversary Meeting, New Orleans, LA. (D. V. Moore, ASP, University of Texas, Health Science Center, Dallas, Tx. 75235).

Nov. 30-Dec. 4: *Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting*, Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, La. (J. S. Tynes, Cooperative Extension Service, Knapp Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. 70803).

Nov. 30-Dec. 9: *American Chemical Society, First Chemical Congress of the North American Continent*, Mexico City, Mexico. ACS, 1155 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

NAL will exhibit at ASIS 1975 in Boston, Oct. 26-29. Exhibits will be in the John B. Hynes Veteran Auditorium. Our booth number is 403. We look forward to welcoming our friends attending ASIS.

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